

**American Bird Conservancy \* American Rivers \* Center for Biological Diversity  
Clean Air Task Force \* Clean Water Action \* Conservation International  
Defenders of Wildlife \* Environment America \* Environment Northeast  
Environmental Working Group \* Environmental Defense Fund \* Earthjustice \* EcoLaw  
Ecology Center \* Friends of the Earth \* Greenpeace  
Humane Society of the United States \* League of Conservation Voters  
National Audubon Society \* National Center for Conservation Science & Policy  
National Wildlife Federation \* Natural Resources Defense Council  
The Nature Conservancy \* Pew Environment Group \* Public Citizen \* Sierra Club  
Southern Alliance for Clean Energy \* Southern Environmental Law Center  
Union of Concerned Scientists \* The Wilderness Society \* World Wildlife Fund**

September 21, 2009

**RE: Reject Weakening of Global Warming Standards for Biofuels from Appropriations Amendments**

Dear Senator,

On behalf of our millions of members and activists, we strongly urge you to oppose any attempt to sidestep the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) process to assess the full lifecycle greenhouse gas emissions of biofuels (including emissions from indirect land-use change) through the appropriations process. These backdoor attempts to prevent EPA from conducting this analysis would stop the use of solid scientific analysis to guide biofuels policy. **We urge you to oppose any amendment that would prevent EPA from moving forward with its peer-reviewed scientific process.**

The Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007 (EISA) mandated a massive ramp up in the production of biofuels and required that these biofuels perform better than gasoline on a full lifecycle assessment of greenhouse gas emissions. This analysis included emissions from indirect land-use change. Scientific research continues to demonstrate that biofuel policies, like the Renewable Fuel Standard (RFS), would accelerate global warming if the policy shifts farmland or forests from food and fiber production to biofuels feedstock production.

There are tremendous opportunities for agriculture and forestry to contribute to sustainable climate solutions, but these solutions must be based on a sound scientific process. Science supports the inclusion of indirect land-use change in the assessment of biofuels. Removing the funding to promulgate biofuels emissions regulations will prevent EPA from completing its ongoing scientific review process on indirect land-use emissions from biofuels. Instead of blocking sound science, rigorous analysis is needed to encourage the production of biofuels that reduce global warming pollution on a full lifecycle basis. Blocking funding for EPA's greenhouse gas emission analysis would prejudice the science and ignore greenhouse gas emissions that result from clearing native grasslands and forests due to biofuels production.

This could undermine the nation's efforts to reduce global warming pollution, since biofuels with higher emissions than petroleum would still qualify for the RFS.

Our organizations strongly oppose any provision that would prevent EPA from conducting a full lifecycle assessment of the greenhouse gas emission standards from biofuels in the Renewable Fuels Standard. The EPA, through its rulemaking process, is currently using the best available science to implement the RFS and is evaluating the impacts of biofuels in an open and transparent way. That process should be respected and allowed to proceed to completion. Stopping this process weakens the global warming standards and is an affront to the best and most recent science available. We ask that you oppose any provision that would block funding for EPA to implement a full greenhouse gas lifecycle analysis of biofuels.

Sincerely,

Darin C. Schroeder  
Vice President of Conservation Advocacy  
**American Bird Conservancy**

Anna Aurilio  
Washington DC Office Director  
**Environment America**

Peter Raabe  
Policy Director for Budget and Appropriations  
**American Rivers**

Emily M Bateson  
Deputy Director  
**Environment Northeast**

Bill Snape  
Senior Counsel  
**Center for Biological Diversity**

Elizabeth Thompson  
Legislative Director  
**Environmental Defense Fund**

Jonathan Lewis  
Attorney  
**Clean Air Task Force**

Heather White  
Chief of Staff and General Counsel  
**Environmental Working Group**

Lynn Thorp  
National Campaigns Coordinator  
**Clean Water Action**

Martin Hayden  
Vice President of Policy and Legislation  
**Earthjustice**

Senior Director  
U.S. Government Affairs  
**Conservation International**

Charles Griffith  
Clean Car Campaign Director  
**Ecology Center**

Mary Beth Beetham  
Director of Legislative Affairs  
**Defenders of Wildlife**

Erich Pica  
Director of Domestic Programs  
**Friends of the Earth**

Margaret E. Sheehan  
Attorney at Law  
**EcoLaw**

Rolf Skar  
Senior Forest Campaigner  
**Greenpeace**

Mimi Brody  
Director of Federal Affairs  
**The Humane Society of the United States**

Tiernen Sittenfeld  
Legislative Director  
**League of Conservation Voters**

Mike Daulton  
Legislative Director  
**National Audubon Society**

Randi Spivak  
VP Government Relations  
**National Center for Conservation Science &  
Policy**

Julie M. Sibbing  
Director, Global Warming, Agriculture &  
Wildlife  
**National Wildlife Federation**

Franz Matzner  
Acting Legislative Director  
**Natural Resources Defense Council**

Robert Bendick  
Director of US Government Relations  
**The Nature Conservancy**

Karen Steuer  
Director, Government Operations  
**Pew Environment Group**

David Arkush  
Director, Congress Watch  
**Public Citizen**

Ann Mesnikoff  
Director, Green Transportation Campaign  
**Sierra Club**

Anne Blair  
Program Manager, Clean Diesel & Bioenergy  
**Southern Alliance for Clean Energy**

Nat Mund  
Legislative Director  
**Southern Environmental Law Center**

Michelle Robinson  
Director, Clean Vehicles Program  
**Union of Concerned Scientists**

David Moulton  
Director, Climate Policy & Conservation  
Funding  
**The Wilderness Society**

Lou Leonard  
Director - US Climate Policy  
**World Wildlife Fund**

CC: US Senate